

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing includes a change to Fig. 5. This sheet replaces the original sheet. In Fig. 5, a description label of "Integrated Electronics" has been added to block E.

Attachment: Informal replacement sheet

Annotated sheet showing changes.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 11 were pending in the present application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9, and 11. Claims 1 to 11 remain pending in the present application.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Fig. 5 because block E does not have a description block. Applicant has amended Fig. 5 to add a description block of "Integrated Electronics" to block E as suggested by the Examiner. Upon allowance, Applicant will replace the informal replacement sheet with a formal sheet of drawing.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,589,684 ("Ventrudo et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,021 ("Nakanishi"). Specifically, the Examiner found that Ventrudo et al. shows all the elements of claim 1 except for that all the components are integrated into a single self-contained module. To cure this deficiency, the Examiner cited Nakanishi for disclosing a single self-contained module in which optical components are installed on a printed circuit board. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Ventrudo et al. does not disclose a system having first and second converters that convert signals representing payload and supervisory information between electric format and a wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) aggregated optical format as recited in claim 1. One skilled in the art understands that WDM is a technology that multiplexes multiple optical carrier signals on a single optical fiber by using different wavelengths of light to carry different signals.

One the other hand, Ventrudo et al. discloses a system that "provides a stabilized dual laser source of high-power optical radiation that is suitable for pumping optic fiber amplifiers and lasers such as fiber lasers." Ventrudo et al., col. 8, lines 47 to 50 (emphasis added). One skilled in the art understands that pumping refers to the transfer of energy to an optic fiber amplifier or a laser to power such a device. Thus, the system of Ventrudo et al. does not convert any signals (e.g., data bits of 0's and 1') between an electric format and a WDM optical format. Instead, the system of Ventrudo et al. transfers energy to an optic fiber amplifier or a laser. To accomplish this, the two lasers emit light of the same wavelength. "The present invention is a dual laser

source that combines, using a polarizing beam combiner device, the output light of two semiconductor diode lasers that emit linearly polarized electric fields of substantially similar wavelength." Ventrudo et al., col. 3, lines 25 to 28 (emphasis added). Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Ventrudo et al. because it does not disclose converters that convert signals representing payload and supervisory information (e.g., data bits of 0's and 1's) between electric format and a WDM aggregated optical format (e.g., different wavelengths carrying different signals).

Claims 2 to 11

Claims 2 to 11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Summary

In summary, claims 1 to 11 were pending in the present application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9, and 11. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 11. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480x206.

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Respectfully submitted,



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